

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE - PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: MAY 28, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

ABEYANCE - GPA-33721 - GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT - PUBLIC HEARING - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS - Request to update and amend the West Las Vegas Plan, to encourage the implementation of streetscape and median improvements, community identity markers and improved neighborhood livability, Ward 5 (Barlow)

C.C.: 07/01/2009

PROTESTS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

2

City Council Meeting

0

APPROVALS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

7

City Council Meeting

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RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVAL

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Conditions and Staff Report
2. Supporting Documentation
3. Justification Letter
4. Neighborhood Meeting Notes
5. Protest/Support Postcards

Motion made by BYRON GOYNES to Approve subject to conditions

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

MICHAEL E. BUCKLEY, VICKI QUINN, STEVEN EVANS, GLENN TROWBRIDGE, BYRON GOYNES, KEEN ELLSWORTH; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-RICHARD TRUESDELL)

Minutes:

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE declared the Public Hearing open.

FLINN FAGG, Planning and Development, outlined the proposed amendments to the West Las Vegas Plan. Additional language would be included relative to proposed Capital Improvement Projects and other planning efforts. The West Las Vegas Plan was last updated in 2006. Two neighborhood meetings were held and comments and recommendations from those meetings are reflected in the proposed changes.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: MAY 28, 2009

The proposal is to amend the language in the implementation section of the document to include clarification of the proposed changes that are needed on Jackson Avenue and to establish a sub-committee to work with staff on the streetscape design of Jackson Avenue.

Another proposal is for improvements to the West Side School similar to what was done at the Fifth Street School, and involve interested community members and stakeholders in working with the Arts Commission in developing a neighborhood identity program and an art plan for the neighborhood.

KATHERINE DUNCAN, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), asked for the West Las Vegas Plan implementation timeline, what effect it would have on the religious facilities in the area and what part they will play within the plan. She asked if any effort was made to study them, catalogue them, and determine this area as an historic district.

MS. DUNCAN pointed out that SENATOR STEVEN HORSFORD is working on the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Committee to try and implement the 1977 plan for the Enterprise Park. Although, the City put forth a plan in 1994, in 2003 and 2006, there have been no efforts to implement those plans or to provide funding. She asked the 2009 plan will be any different and how the Chamber can work with the City to help with the plan.

MARGO WHEELER, Director of Planning and Development, clarified that as with all area and general plans, the implementation of capital projects is through the City's Capital Improvement (CIP) Program. Funding is received based upon the decision of the Council when the City's budget is adopted. With regard to the religious facilities, MS. WHEELER stated that the persons representing various religious facilities were identified and have participated in the proposed language update. The 2003 and 2006 plans were a consolidation of previous plans. The update is to implement work that was done in 2008 and to place that into the plan so the language is available. The Main Street Program is something that can be pursued in the future.

MS. WHEELER pointed out there is specific language to consider the creation of community development corporations and to ensure that staff works with the community on the implementation plan. The Public Works Department has been working on the infrastructure improvements and has been involved in these changes and enhancements proposed with this language. There will be opportunities with regards to the Arts program and citizens' involvement and comments. Those comments will be considered on July 1, 2009 when this item is before the City Council.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE asked for the status on this area being defined as an historic district. MS. WHEELER replied that a portion of the old West Side was studied but could not recall its status. It is separate from this document, as this document is an area plan and not an historic plan. MS. WHEELER explained that the projects within this document are being considered as part of the CPI.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: MAY 28, 2009

MS. DUNCAN recommended that the most urgent scope of work would be between A Street to H Street and Bonanza Avenue going north. Consideration should be given to the West Side School, the entire McWilliams town site and visual improvements of the historic churches, as it is indicative of the African American culture. Transportation issues need to be looked at as well, especially with the closing of F Street.

COMMISSIONER EVANS asked if the boarding home where BILLY ECKSTINE, LENA HORNE and SAMMY DAVIS, JR. lived still exists and if it has been identified as an historic property. MS. DUNCAN replied that the Chamber has partnered with the Las Vegas Black Historic Society and purchased the home. The goal is to restore it and provide tours on that particular property. They are also looking at ETHEL PEARSON'S home on Adams Street. Additionally, the Pilgrim Church, located on the corner of D Street and Harrison, is the first black church established in Las Vegas. There are many treasures that need to be uncovered and preserved, and she hopes to have this area established as a tourism improvement district. She added that there is one remaining segregated casino in Las Vegas called the Town Tavern, which was originally built in 1941. It is owned by the only black female in Nevada to hold a gaming license, TARA JACKSON. The goal is to establish a walk of fame from MS. HARRISON'S boarding house to the Town Tavern.

MS. WHEELER clarified that the historic survey is a separate action and is done through the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). The inventory and the work regarding the McWilliams track is not part of this document.

MS. DUNCAN acknowledged the redevelopment success of the downtown area near the Las Vegas High School area. If the same model is used, she believes that a successful community could be built on the west side of Bonanza Road. She wanted to ascertain that the community's recommendations will be considered.

COMMISSIONER GOYNES indicated the area near the FBI building has been revamped through the CIP program. That plan was put into action, but while this plan is good on its merit, the residents want to see it come to fruition. The area residents do not want this area to become a pass-through area but want streetscapes to reflect the community.

COMMISSIONER GOYNES asked for clarification about the enhancements of Owens Avenue to provide a north/south parkway-type corridor connecting D Street, B Street and Lossee Road to facilitate redevelopment opportunities along this new corridor. BART ANDERSON, Public Works, clarified that once the plan is approved staff will be advised to investigate the feasibility and its implementation, the community will be able to provide input. This particular area qualifies as an historic area and should be handled with care.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE declared the Public Hearing closed.